

Message Text

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12

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11

FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00 ACDA-19 L-03 NASA-04

SCI-06 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 DRC-01 /118 W

----- 034483

O R 050630Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2121

INFO COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CINCPACREP AUST

COMNAVSTA H E HOLT

OSD/ISA/FMRA/ WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6607

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MIL, AS, US

SUBJ: SATELLITE TERMINAL FOR DIEGO GARCIA

REF: A) CANBERRA 6372; B) STATE 230674; C) CANBERRA 6430

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUIRES PRESS GUIDANCE REQUESTED
REFTEL C.

2. EMBASSY INFORMED BY FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKENEY
OF DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT DEFENSE
CORRESPONDENT FRED BRENCHLEY OF INFLUENTIAL WEEKLY
"NATIONAL TIMES" HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION ON
MOVEMENT OF SATELLITE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT FROM NORTHWEST
CAPE. BRENCHLEY EXPECTED TO TALK WITH DFA OFFICIALS ON
THIS SUBJECT DECEMBER 5. PURPOSE OF
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BLAKENEY'S CALL WAS TO ALERT EMBASSY TO FIRST

JOURNALISTIC INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AND TO ASK IF RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED BY DFA WEEK AGO HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON. UNDERSTAND BRENCHLEY IS PREPARING GENERAL ARTICLE ON NWC NEGOTIATIONS AND CAME UPON TRANSFER OF SATELLITE TERMINAL DURING HIS RESEARCH.

3. EMBASSY, TO ITS EMBARRASSMENT, HAD TO SAY THAT NO RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON HAD BEEN RECEIVED. BLAKENEY THEN STATED DFA WOULD EXPECT TO RESPOND TO BRENCHLEY'S QUESTIONS ALONG LINES SUGGESTED REF. A, PARA 3. BLAKENEY INDICATED AND WE AGREED THAT THIS RESPONSE WILL PROBABLY BE UNSATISFACTORY SINCE IT LEAVES MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND WAS INTENDED ONLY AS CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE OVER WEEKEND TEN DAYS AGO AFTER WE LEARNED THAT SATELLITE TERMINAL EQUIPMENT WAS TO BE MOVED.

4. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT TELL BLAKENEY, BRENCHLEY ALSO TELEPHONED EMBASSY DECEMBER 4 TO REQUEST INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ABOUT NORTHWEST CAPE AND SPECIFICALLY ABOUT POSSIBLE "CHANGES" BEING INSTITUTED THERE. BRENCHLEY'S REQUEST WAS DENIED ON BASIS THAT IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS ITEMS UNDER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. BRENCHLEY DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION SATELLITE TERMINAL MOVEMENT IN HIS REQUEST.

5. WHILE EMBASSY APPRECIATES DIFFICULTIES WITH WHICH USG MAY BE FACED IN RESPONDING TO PRESS QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, THE LACK OF RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S URGENT MESSAGES HAS LEFT BOTH US AND GOA REPS IN DIFFICULT POSITION. STORY WHICH RESULTS FROM BRENCHLEY'S TALK WITH DFA OFFICIALS TODAY MAY TURN OUT TO BE UNNECESSARILY SPECULATIVE AND MAY SUGGEST THAT US HAS AGAIN NOT LEVELED WITH GOA. SUCH REPORTING COULD LEAD TO GREATER ATTENTION TO THIS SUBJECT IN THE PRESS AND/OR IN PARLIAMENT THAT IS WARRANTED BY THE FACTS. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS PROMPT AND HELPFUL RESPONSE TO REF. A. GREEN

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Message Attributes

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